Projects Undertaken by Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission

740. DR. MOHAN BABU : Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) what is the total number of projects undertaken by Rajiv Gandhi Drinking Water Mission Authority;

(b) the total number of such projects taken up in Andhra Pradesh togetherwith details;

(c*) whether the State Governments were asked to set-up State level authority and district-level Committee under this project; and

(d) if so, the details of their role and functions?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI A. RAJA): (a) and (b) Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission in the Department of Drinking Water Supply, Ministry of Rural Development, does not undertake implementation of any project/ scheme under Rural Water Supply Programme.

Drinking Water Supply is a state subject. The State Governments implement the programme under the State Sector Minimum Needs Programme (MNP). The Central Government through Rajiv Gandhi National Drinking Water Mission supplements the efforts of the States by providing funds under Accelerated Rural Water Supply Programme (ARWSP). Powers have been delegated to the States to plan, sanction and implement their individual rural water supply schemes.

Powers to plan, sanction and implement Sub-Mission projects in quality affected areas have also been delegated to the States w.e.f. 1-4-1998. However, prior to delegation of powers for sanctioning of Sub-mission projects to the States, 112 Sub-mission projects, to be implemented in various States, were sanctioned by the Central Government, out of which 56 belong to Andhra Pradesh.

The Government of India has introduced reforms in the Rural Water Supply sector with a view to institutionalise community participation in the rural water supply related activities. 58 districts in various States have been identified for implementing the reforms on a pilot basis, out of which 4 districts belong to Andhra Pradesh. The project reports in respect of these districts have been received.

(c) and (d) State Governments have been requested to set up State and District level Water and Sanitation Missions so that the desired thrust is made available for an integrated implementation of institutionalising community participation under Rural Water Supply Programme and Total Sanitation Campaign (TSC) under the Central Rural Sanitation Programme. It is envisaged that their functions would include receipt of funds released by the Central Government and its effective utilisation/disbursement for various activities related to awareness campaigns, training programmes and physical implementation of the schemes opted by the community. They are also expected to provide effective monitoring, supervision and guidance in the implementation of the reform projects.

Plan to connect villages by roads

741. SHRI SATISHCHANDRA SITARAM PRADHAN: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have a plan to connect all villages by roads;

(b) if so, the details of that plan;

(c) whether there is any plan to reform the present National Village Roads Development Committee; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RURAL DEVELOPMENT (SHRI SUBHASH MAHARIA): (a) The President's Address to the joint sitting of Parliament in October, 1999 indicated among other things, that a Programme for Rural Connectivity through construction of all weather roads to connect all villages would soon be started. The Ministry of Rural Development has been assigned the task of effecting 100 percent connectivity to the rural areas.

(b) to (d) The contours of the Programme for Rural Connectivity are in the preliminary stages of formulation, to enable the activities to commence in the financial year 2000-2001. A National Rural Road Development Committee (NRRDC) under the Chairmanship of Shri. Nitin Gadkari has been set up by the Ministry of Rural Development. This Committee is in the process of finalising its report.

Role of MPs in D.R.D.A.

† 742. SHRI RAGHAVJI: Will the Minister of RURAL DEVELOPMENT be pleased to state:

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.